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54/08/27 Jury Urges Police Fee For Help

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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JURY URGES POLICE FEE FOR HELP

Report Suggests Suburbs
Pay Cleveland for
Expert Service

BY SANFORD WATZMAN

A "Marshall Plan" in reverse, with Cuyahoga suburbs giving financial aid to their giant ally—the Cleveland Police Department — was strongly advocated yesterday by the grand jurors who heard the Marilyn Sheppard murder case.

In their final report the jurors stressed that the experienced Cleveland police force, and not the proposed county detective bureau, was the immediate answer to enforcement problems typified by the Bay Village slaying.

Reading the five-page document in open court to Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day was Bert R. Winston, 49-year-old businessman who was foreman of the jury.

Suggests Retainer

The report suggested that "the suburbs pay Cleveland an annual retaining fee and then a predetermined amount per case" for city police assistance.

"If Cleveland were to have such additional funds * * * it would use them to increase the facilities of the scientific bureau which, in turn, would be of great benefit to all of us in the county," the jurors added.

This recommendation was similar to one made by Police Chief Frank W. Story in the early stages of the Sheppard investigation and subsequently endorsed by Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon.

The proposal was to be taken up by the cabinet of Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze.

"More and more the suburbs have been increasing their populations, and it has been only natural for all of them to have experienced an increasing number of felonies (serious crimes)," the report continued.

"Unfair Burden"

"Municipalities surrounding Cleveland have used the services of the Cleveland scientific bureau at no cost to them but at a considerable cost to the city of Cleveland. We feel that it is an unfair burden on Cleveland to foot the entire cost.

"The jury heard several cases that originated in the various suburbs, and it was very apparent that the officials of these communities did not have the training to cope with major felonies."

While the jurors asserted a county detective bureau was "required" as a long-range proposition, they pointed out that the charters of many suburbs

PAY CITY POLICE, SUBURBS ADVISED

Grand Jury Suggests an
Annual Retainer

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would have to be amended and that this would take "five to 10 years."

The report mentioned the Sheppard slaying as "a recent shocking murder case," but did not refer to it by name.

In an obvious reference to Bay Village authorities, the jurors wrote: "Finally, in desperation, they turned to the Cleveland police for help, but long after the trail had grown cold."

Other recommendations in the

document were to add more personnel to the city police force, to improve the police academy and to support civic committees that are fighting juvenile delinquency.

Of 393 persons indicted by the grand jury, the report said, 195 pleaded guilty and most of the other cases are still pending. Seventeen persons were given no-bills by the jury.